

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A two/four-wheel drive switching device for a vehicle which permits a rear brake an engine brake to be applied to front and rear wheels even in a two-wheel drive mode and which can minimize a switching noise. A switching unit permits and inhibits the transfer of power in a power transfer mechanism and is provided with a drive shaft. A driven shaft is fitted on the drive shaft through an annular clearance. An odd number of engaging/disengaging members are disposed in the clearance between the drive shaft and the driven shaft to connect and disconnect both shafts. A switching mechanism is provided for locating the engaging/disengaging members selectively in a position in which the drive shaft and the driven shaft are connected together and a position in which both shafts are disconnected from each other. An elastic member urges the engaging/disengaging members in a direction to connect the drive shaft and the driven shaft with each other, wherein in a two-wheel drive mode the engaging/disengaging members are moved in a direction to disconnect the drive shaft and the driven shaft from each other against an elastic force of the elastic member.

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